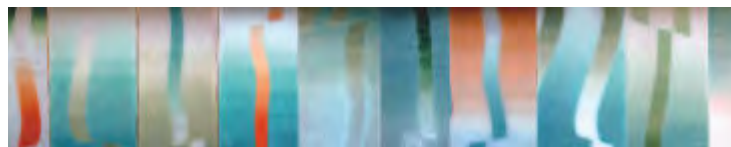


# contemporary

Congregation Olam Tikvah  
www.olamtikvah.org  
3800 Glenbrook Road  
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Volume 58, Number 1  
January, 2021

## We're back in your mailbox!

It's been a long time since the Contemporary took a pandemic hiatus, but we're so glad to be back in your mailbox, bringing you a small, tangible piece of your OT community. While many of the ways we connect have necessarily changed, we have seen our connections themselves remain deep, positive sources of comfort, strength, and joy.

## New Year, Old Friends

Purim is meant to turn our normal lives upside-down, to be chaotic and unexpected. I'll leave it to you to decide whether it is fitting or ironic then that our Purim celebration can be remembered as the last right-side-up event of 5780. Since then, we've found new ways to connect.

### Photos, clockwise from the top right:

Lori Jacobs and Rabbi Kalender Purim pARTying, by Dan Noble  
Ahava Freeman leading pre-recorded Shabbat services in July  
Rosh Hashanah Shofar in Your Neighborhood with Alan Gorowitz  
Call of the Shofar Challah Bake with Shelly Palley  
Chanukah Drive-Thru, by Dan Noble  
The Eisensons enjoy Sukkot in the OT parking lot



Check out the full Purim pARTy gallery [HERE](#), the full Chanukah Drive-Thru Gallery [HERE](#), the Havdalah in the Parking Lot gallery [HERE](#), and to see the many photos of OT in action [HERE](#). Check out all the Purim photo booth photos at [bit.ly/purimphotobooth](https://bit.ly/purimphotobooth), password: purim2020

## Olam Tikvah Assistant Rabbi Search – Take 2

*By Michelle Pearlstein, Search Committee Chair, and Rabbi David Kalender*

Many things in 2020 were unexpected; carrying out a months-long search for an Assistant Rabbi and then not hiring an individual was one. With so many norms being challenged last March, we remain confident that we made the best decision for our *kehillah* at the time. We recognize how hard it would have been to integrate a leader and counselor of the community in the particular climate. That said our OT community has risen to the challenges brought by the pandemic and we have reentered the search process. We are eager to welcome a new Assistant Rabbi into our community this summer, to help teach, lead, learn from, engage with, and counsel our community.

Several of you are familiar with the search process, but others are not, so this is a chance to share the roadmap we will follow over the coming months.


OT participates in the joint placement process of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Rabbinical Assembly, which allows us to select from a pool of newly ordained rabbis from the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York and Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles.

*See Rabbi Search, page 3*




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## Rabbi Search, continued from page 2

The Search Committee will guide us through this vigorous and energizing process. Their responsibilities include preparing our application, designing and facilitating virtual site visits, participating in formal candidate interviews, discussing and evaluating community feedback and personal impressions, and making a hiring recommendation to the Board of Directors.

### **The Application**

Completing the application requires us to deeply consider who we are and what kind of community we aspire to be. Therefore, the hiring process becomes an opportunity for self-assessment and evaluation of where we are on the paths we have chosen.

At the same time, we are able to consider our aspirations. In what ways do we want to grow our congregation? Is there a particular segment of the congregation that needs new or special attention? Is there an unserved population within (or outside of) OT? What communal challenges need to be addressed? Are there distinct elements that must be protected? And how do we imagine a new rabbi will help us achieve those goals?

Mirroring our community's response to the challenges brought on by COVID, we have submitted a statement on our measured and intentional approach to decision-making, as opposed to allowing the pandemic to be the defining message of our responses.

Olam Tikvah is a *kehillah k'doshah*—a sacred community—because we look simultaneously and profoundly into tradition, our contemporary experience, and our dreams for the future. This process helps us chart a course that draws us closer to a life of spiritual growth, supportive community, intellectual heights and joy, in a thoughtful and intentional fashion.

### **Search Committee Members**

The Search Committee is chaired by Michelle Pearlstein, our 2nd Vice-President, and last year's committee has been reconvened to complete the search. Selected to represent a cross-section of the OT community, the Committee includes Jeff Borenstein, Judy Werbel, Arnold Golub, Naomi Saad, Walt Meyer, Sara Silverman, Brittanie Werbel (Past President), and Alan Gorowitz (President). Their bios are posted on the OT website.

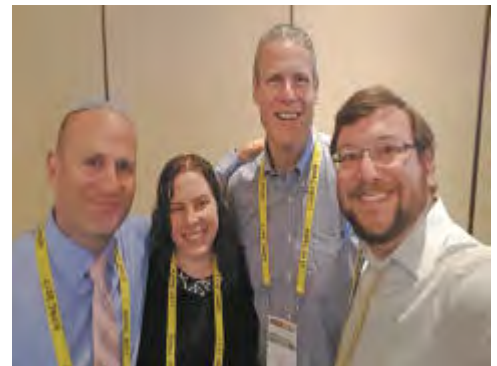
### **Interview Week**

Between February 8-11, Alan Gorowitz and Brittanie Werbel will participate with us in the first round of interviews. Dubbed "Interview Week," the four of us will interview all candidates who make the request in 50-minute Zoom sessions. Historically, these interviews were held in New York at JTS.

### **Virtual Site Visits**

Based on the first round of interviews, we will extend invitations to candidates to "visit" OT between February 14 and March 22. In order to provide a level playing field to all synagogues and rabbis, the RA and USCJ have determined there will be no in person site visits this year. The Search Committee is working to re-imagine how to provide multiple opportunities for our members to engage with the candidates and make sure the candidates get a sense of who we are as a community.

Each candidate will also be provided opportunities to meet with selected members of the OT Board, professional staff, and the Search Committee, whose members will also manage the logistics of each visit.



*National Rabbinic Symposium*

*L-R: Rabi Joshua Ben-Gideon, Rabbi Ita Paskind, Rabbi David Kalender, Rabbi Evan Ranski*



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## Olam Tikvah Community Connections

The Olam Tikvah community is here to celebrate and support you during lifecycle events.

### *Mazal Tov*

Laura Conover, on the engagement of her son, Jeremy, to Iris Krandel  
Merle & Michael Toobin on the birth of their granddaughter, Rose Sophia, daughter of Farrah & Elliot Toobin

### *Condolence*

Stuart Eder, husband of Lilly Eder, father of Marcus Eder and Marilynne Specht  
Charles Noble, brother of Larry Noble  
Edwin Wineholt, father of Dale Wineholt

### *Anniversaries*

Thank you for your donations to Olam Tikvah in honor of your anniversaries. Special thank you to our anniversary callers this month: Carol Klevan and Linda Meyer.

#### **December 4-10**

Linda Recht & Bob Watts

#### **December 11-17**

Rachel & Philip Blumenthal; Anne & David Hone (25);  
Davida & Alan Kashdan; Nadine & Irwin Rosen (60);  
Joanne & Tom Stryer (55)

#### **December 18-24**

Betsey & Joseph Goldberg; Linda & Walter Meyer;  
Pearl & Steve Raikin; Carol Gordon & Steve Rosenthal (45)

#### **December 25-31**

Barbara & Jordan Baker; Beverly & Ronald Goldberg (65);  
Sandra & Melvin Goldfarb; Tobey & Morey Greenberg;  
Karen & Barry Hemmerdinger; Susan & Bill Kristol (45);  
Ellen & Stephen Rubenstein (45); Judy & Stan Schretter;  
Nerissa & Micah Ticatch

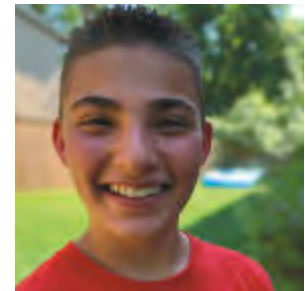
## B'nei Mitzvah

*Saturday, January 9*

*Parashat Shemot*

*Seth Henry Bond,*

son of Debbie & David Howard and brother of Jacob, is a 7th grader at Robinson Secondary School. His favorite school subject is Math. He enjoys playing hockey with his travel team, Caps Hockey Academy, as well as playing lacrosse for Braddock Road Lacrosse. Seth loves reading, hanging out with friends, and spending as much time as he can at his grandparents' lake house in Maine.



*Saturday, January 16*

*Parashat Va'era*

*Audrey Indyk,*

the Frost 7th grader is the daughter of Lawrence & Marcy Indyk. She is second of seven siblings, the only girl, and sister of Samuel, Henry, William, George, Benjamin, and Charles. She is the granddaughter of James & Carolyn Bauman of Wisconsin, Nadina Indyk of Virginia, and George & Nancy Storolis of Pennsylvania. Audrey has been playing piano for six years, and her favorite subject in school is Science. She enjoys cooking, embroidery, arts and crafts, and playing with all her brothers. Even though it will have to be virtually because of the latest pandemic wave, Audrey still very much looks forward to sharing her day with family, friends, and the Olam Tikvah community.



## *Tzedakah*

Thank you for your donations, which were received by November 30, 2020. To make a donation, [CLICK HERE](#).

### Annual Campaign

Thank you for ability to stream Shabbat and High Holiday services, by Edward Drexler

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### Emanuel Passamaneck Prayer Book/Tallit

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Abraham Arnold Schwartz, father of Stefanie Schwartz and Ruth Faiber, aunt of Stefanie Schwartz, by Stefanie Schwartz & Daniel Blacker  
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### Jerry Werbel Memorial Landscape Fund

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Melvin Gorowitz, by Brenda & Marvin Klemow; Natalie & Julian Levine

### Rabbi Itzhaq M. Klirs Memorial Adult Education Fund

### IN MEMORY OF

Lois Wesley, by Andrea Gross  
Marilyn & Robert Grossman, by Sarabeth Grossman  
Melvin Gorowitz, by Lynne & Elliott Dubin  
**REFUAH SHLEMA**  
Tom Stryer - hope you are on your feet soon, by Diane & Joel Miller

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

### IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Kalender, by Fran & Bob Staiman; Rebecca & Brandon Schneider  
Rabbi Kalender and the OT community for that they have done for me and the members of Olam Tikvah, by Helen Leiner

Rabbi Kalender, for all the things he does and for being there for us, by Francine & Robert Lasken

### IN MEMORY OF

Joseph Abrams, by Elliott Abrams  
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Melvin Gorowitz, by Andrea & Jerry Gross; Ilka Shore-Cooper & Fred Cooper; Cindi & Tom Drake; Leslie Frieden & Seth Feldman; Sally Amster & Augie Arnstein; Merle & Michael Toobin  
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### Tzedakah Fund

### IN HONOR OF

Bar Mitzvah of Alessandro Iturbide, by Leona Shoon; Merle & Michael Toobin

### IN MEMORY OF

Frieda Feller, mother of Arthur and Barbara, grandmother of Sam and Kayla, great grandmother of Xander, Sydney, and Kenji, by Donna Feller

Abe Koritzinsky, by Beth Reisig  
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Melvin Jacobson, by Ilese Vorcheimer  
Meriam Williamowsky, by Diane Miller  
Milton Drazen, by Judy & Stan Schretter  
Moe Metzler, by Rochelle & David Goldberg  
Morris Arthur Wolf, by Henry Wolf  
Morris Klewans, by Samuel Klewans  
Morty Hertz, by Patti Gibberman  
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Norman Silver, by Wendy Rosner  
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Seymour Lumer, by Gail & Mark Lumer  
Shirley Sloan, by Howard Sloan  
Shlomo Benheim, by Marci & Alan Benheim  
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*OT Chorale, Fine Arts, and Social Action Committee contributions are listed in the Tzedakah Fund.*

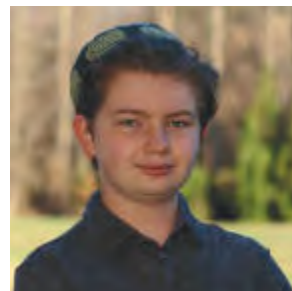
## B'nei Mitzvah, continued from page 5

Saturday, January 23

Parashat Bo

Avery Orion Kane,

son of Jordana Schmier & David Kane, big brother to Jeremy, is an 8th grader at Gesher JDS and was awarded the 7th grade Judaic Scholar award last year. Avery has the distinct pleasure of celebrating his bar mitzvah with the OT community twice, as he shared his D'var Torah and readings in July, when his bar mitzvah was originally scheduled. Avery was an active Little League player until he became old enough to umpire, which he now performs with wisdom and skill. He is an avid reader, particularly of science fiction. He enjoys board and card games. He is currently combining his love of games and biking to develop a game that can be played while biking to help encourage exercising.



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### Rabbi Search, continued from page 3

Additionally, and critically, there will be a process for the OT membership to provide feedback on the candidates so that the Committee and Rabbi Kalender will be able to make a recommendation to the Board of Directors. The goal is to find the best *shidduch* (match).

There will be more details about the visits as they draw near. In the meantime, there is a dedicated email address so if you have questions, please send them to **rabbisearch@olamtikvah.org**.

We thank you in advance for your participation in this process and looking forward to an exciting few months!

### **Assistant Rabbi Search Timeline**

Jan 20	Questionnaire submission deadline
Feb 8-11	Virtual Interview Week/First round of interviews
Feb 14, 7:00pm	Offer candidates site visits
Feb 14-Mar 22	Board of Directors holds special meeting to vote on Search Committee recommendation for offers
Mar 22, 7:00pm	First opportunity to make a hiring offer
Contract Negotiations	via Executive Committee
Summer 2021	Expected start of Assistant Rabbi

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